Housing Charges were last revised with effect from 1.4.2001. Screening charges of registered baggage of passengers at domestic airports were last revised with effect from 1.5.1996.

New entrants in aviation sector

1337. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications which are pending from private companies seeking permission to enter into the aviation industry;

(b) whether adequate facilities are available in the airports of this country to handle heavy rush of aircrafts; and

(c) what is the plan of Government to reduce airport taxes in some of the airports within the country, as the same is different in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 11 applications pending from private companies seeking permision to operate scheduled domestic Air Transport Services.

(b) Provision of adequate infrastructural facilities at the airports in the country is a continuous process and is being provided in a phased manner, depending upon the traffic growth and demand from airline operators. Government has taken several steps to facilitate growth of airport infrastructure in a sustained manner through restructuring of important metro airports, facilitating construction of private greenfield airports, allowing FDI in airport infrastructure upto 100% and development of important non-metro airports through public private partnership.

(c) While airport operators change landing/parking charges from airlines/ aircraft operator there is no airport tax levied by the Government.

Chandigarh as civil airport

1338. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress about making Chandigarh as a civil airport;

(b) whether any money has been sanctioned; and

(c) what is the time schedule of making this project effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Chandigarh airport belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) only maintains a Civil Air Terminal there for handling civil flights.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Extension of runway of Kullu airport

1339. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any feasibility for extension of runway at Kullu, Kangra and Shimla airports as per the report submitted by IIT, Roorkee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work for extension of runway is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Final report from IIT, Roorkee is still awaited for Kullu airport. IIT, Roorkee has not been entrusted the work of carrying out any feasibility study from the extension of runway at Kangra and Shimla Airports.

(b) Runway extension is not feasible at Shimla airport due to deep gourges and hilly terrains. Runway extension at Kangra airport has been completed.

(c) The decision to extend the runway at Kullu will be taken only after the receipt of final report from IIT, Roorkee.

Second airport for Delhi

1340. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: